



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

With a land area of 316,527 acres and contiguous with Washington, D.C. and the Potomac river, Montgomery County is frequently referred to as the "bedroom of Washington". The 1990 population for Montgomery county was 757,027 a 31 percent increase from the 579,053 in 1980. The county's ties to the federal government are not only residential, but it's commerce also is heavily influenced by the federal government. Agencies such as the National Institute of Health, the National Bureau of Standards and Department of Energy are located in Montgomery County. Light, clean industrial firms specializing in research and development (space and computer science and technology) account for much of the business activity in the county.

The remaining one-third of the land area is still basically rural, agricultural, and open space. Aided by the new technology such as no-tillage farming and a farmland preservation program, the agriculture sector continues to thrive. Approximately 45 percent of the 526 farmers are full time, but over one-half of the 77,266 acres of farmland is owned by non-farm people.

The county's agriculture is typically central Maryland Peidmont farming. Cash grain and oil crops, dairy and livestock dominate agricultural production.

With a high percentage of small part-time farmers, there is a large horse population and a growing fresh produce industry that is marketed directly to the consumer.

MONTGOMERY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	12,100	76.6	927,300
	1998		11,200	99.1	1,110,400
	1999		8,400	45.7	384,200
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	2,500	10.0	24,900
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		2,100	9	18,900
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	16,100	24.6	396,400
	1998		13,600	30.0	408,000
	1999		15,400	28.0	431,200
Wheat	1997	Bu.	5,500	73.5	404,000
	1998		6,100	66.9	408,000
	1999		5,400	62.6	338,300
Hay	1997	Tons.	12,200	2.2	27,200
	1998		10,600	4.1	43,400
	1999		12,300	2.1	25,300
Barley	1997	Bu.	*	*	*
	1998		1,100	74.5	82,000
	1999		900	83.7	75,300

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹	
Corn	19	Oats	³	Cattle	8
Wheat	13	Barley	2	Hogs	18
Hay	6	Soybeans	12	Sheep	8
				Milk Production	9 ⁵

MONTGOMERY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		669	561	526
Average Size (acres)		155	147	147
Land in Farms (acres)		103,377	82,470	77,266

Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	12,131	11,330	8,543
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	2,780	483	666
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	1,765	1,015	905

Average Number of Milk Cows		1997	1998	1999
		1,800	2,000	2,000

Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		1997	1998	1999
		25,100	28,000	29,000

Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997
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----- Thousand Dollars -----

All Products	26,049	27,717	28,563
Crops	16,091	19,953	19,832
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	9,958	7,764	8,731

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.

² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

³ Unranked - Data not published.

⁴ Revised.

⁵ 1999.

* Acreage too small to publish .

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	35.9	30.7	5.77	2.85
February	38.1	33.1	2.65	2.83
March	41.6	43.4	3.95	3.36
April	54.7	52.4	2.44	3.19
May	64.2	62.0	1.66	4.18
June	72.8	70.4	1.29	3.76
July	80.7	74.7	1.07	3.71
August	75.7	73.0	4.57	3.99
September	67.9	65.7	10.01	3.53
October	**54.8	54.9	2.94	3.34
November	51.0	44.9	1.93	3.30
December	39.3	35.1	2.83	3.07
Annual	**56.4	53.4	41.11	41.11

** Insufficient or partial data.

Number frost free days for 1999 222

Normal frost free days 1951-1980 180 *(1961-1990 Not available)*

Highest temperature 07-06-99 101

Lowest temperature 01-06-99 7

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**Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
and the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service.**